Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for gathering operational metrics within a grid environment comprising the steps of:

identifying a host, wherein said host is a software object operating in a grid of said grid environment;

associating a ghost agent within said grid with said host, wherein said ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of said host within said grid;

determining operational metrics for at least a portion of said recorded at least one action;

recording said operational metrics;

moving said host from said grid to another grid within said grid environment; and,

in response to said moving of said host, moving said ghost agent from said grid to said another grid in accordance with movement of said host.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said operational metrics comprise performance metrics.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said operational metrics comprise load metrics.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

identifying a location for logging data that is external to said ghost agent; and,

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conveying said recorded operational metrics to said identified location.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

generating test input based in part upon said recorded operational metrics.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said ghost agent is deployed within a production segment of said grid environment, said method further comprising the steps of:

deploying at least one ghost agent within a test segment of said grid environment; and,

recording operational metrics relating to tests conducted within said test segment using said deployed at least one ghost agent.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a plurality of hosts; and,

for each selected host, repeating said associating step, said recording step, and said moving step.

8.   (Previously Presented) A method for determining operational metrics within a grid environment comprising the steps of:

identifying a transaction comprising a plurality of actions;

executing said actions within different grids of said grid environment by at least one host;

replicating said actions within at least one ghost agent;

recording data relating to said replicated actions; and,

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determining operational metrics for said transaction based upon said recorded data,

wherein said at least one host moves from one grid to another grid within said grid environment and in response to said moving of said at least one host, said at least one ghost agent moves from said one grid to said another grid in accordance with movement of said at least one host.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said operational metrics comprise performance metrics.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said operational metrics comprise load metrics.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said different locations exist within different grids of said grid environment.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 8, said executing step further comprising the step of:

executing said actions within a production segment of said grid environment.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said transaction is executed for an application, said determining step further comprising the step of:

determining said operational metrics while actions for different applications are being executed within said production segment.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 8, said executing step further comprising the step:

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executing said actions within a test segment of said grid environment.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said transaction is executed for an application, said determining step further comprising the step of:

executing actions for at least one different application to simulate system load resulting from said different applications.

16-35. (Cancelled)

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